

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

Approved For Release 2000/08/31 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100190034-0

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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/DCI/WHIZ 741031

CIA/WHSS

SOURCE REF:

ROUTING	1	4	7	10
	2	5	8	11
	3	6	9	12

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO,  
STATE RCI//INFO OPS CTR FOR MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION CIA REP,  
TREASURY DEPT//INFO [REDACTED] 25X1A9a  
WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS  
INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 2

DATE: 31 OCT 74

SUBJECT: THE SITUATION IN SAIGON

25X1A2g

REF :

DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF OPPOSITION  
DEMONSTRATIONS AND INCIDENTS IN SAIGON. MORE ARE SCHEDULED FOR  
TOMORROW WHICH IS SOUTH VIETNAM'S NATIONAL DAY. MOST OF THESE  
HAVE BEEN MINOR IN SCALE AND HANDLED EASILY BY THE POLICE WITH  
A MINIMUM OF FORCE. THE MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT OCCURRED WHEN A  
CROWD OF 1,000 PERSONS INCLUDING A LARGE NUMBER OF TEENAGE YOUTH,  
ORGANIZED BY THE CATHOLIC ANTICORRUPTION MOVEMENT, ATTEMPTED TO  
BREAK THROUGH POLICE BARRICADES AND MARCH ON DOWN TOWN SAIGON.  
PRESS DISPATCHES CLAIM THAT FATHER THANH, THE LEADER OF THE CATHOLIC  
DISSIDENTS, WAS INJURED BY POLICE IN THE RESULTING MELEE. THE US

DATE:  
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EMBASSY REPORTS, HOWEVER, THAT FATHER THANH DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY HURT, IF AT ALL.

THESE LATEST DEMONSTRATIONS AND INCIDENTS ARE BEING PROVOKED BY THE SAME SMALL NUMBER OF POLITICAL AGITATORS WHO HAVE BEEN ACTIVE SINCE LAST SEPTEMBER. UP TO NOW, THE POLICE HAVE REACTED TO THEIR DEMONSTRATIONS WITH RESTRAINT--AN APPROACH THAT HAS CREATED NO MARTYRS AND HELPED TO PROTECT THE GOVERNMENT'S IMAGE AT HOME AND ABROAD. PRESIDENT THIEU, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO BE DETERMINED TO SHUT OFF THE POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS IN SAIGON DURING THE NATIONAL DAY PERIOD AND MAY NOW BE ADOPTING A TOUGHER APPROACH. CENTRAL SAIGON HAS BEEN CORDONED OFF AND LARGE NUMBERS OF POLICE HAVE BEEN POSTED THROUGHOUT THE CITY. THIS MASSIVE POLICE PRESENCE APPEARS TO BE CONTRIBUTING TO HIGHLY EXAGGERATED PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION. E2 IMPDET.

(SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: EAP DIV, NIO [REDACTED])

25X1A9a

DATE: 31 OCT 74

ORIG: [REDACTED] WHSS 25X1A9a

UNIT: CIA OPS CTR

EXT: 9340

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